

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SPC-03 H-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

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R 202053Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5723

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, UK

SUBJECT: VISIT OF AMBASSADOR PEARCE PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY
TO CLARIFY STATUS OF TRADE BILL

1. DEPUTY STR AMBASSADOR PEARCE VISITED LONDON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, BEFORE MEETING ON AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT POLICIES AT DITCHY PARK DURING WEEKEND, AND AGAIN ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19. VISIT PROVIDED EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF BRITISH OFFICIALS ON CURRENT STATUS OF TRADE BILL, AND WAS MUCH APPRECIATED.

2. IN COURSE OF LONDON VISITS, HE MADE OFF-THE-RECORD ADDRESS AND ANSWERED QUESTIONS ON STATUS OF TRADE BILL TO OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE, AND HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR DETAILED DISCUSSION WITH MINISTER FOR TRADE AND
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CONSUMER AFFAIRS SIR GEOFFREY HOWE AND DEPARTMENT OF

TRADE AND INDUSTRY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PETER PRESTON, DEPUTY SECRETARY (IN CHARGE OF NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS, AMONG OTHER SUBJECTS). DITCHLEY MEETING WAS WELL ATTENDED BY SENIOR BRITISH OFFICIALS WITH AN INTEREST IN TRADE INCLUDING ROY DENMAN, DEPUTY SECRETARY, DTI, RESPONSIBLE FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND EC RELATIONS, AND F.M. KEARNS, SECOND PERMANENT SECRETARY, MAFF.

3. VISIT TO UK WAS PARTICULARLY USEFUL BECAUSE IT PROVIDED UNUSUAL AND TIMELY OPPORTUNITY FOR PEARCE TO EXPLAIN STATUS OF TRADE BILL AND PROSPECTS FOR ITS CONSIDERATION BY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. THE INTEREST OF UK OFFICIALS, BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND MEDIA IN THIS SUBJECT IS BOTH GREAT AND DETAILED. AMBASSADOR PEARCE WAS MOST EFFECTIVE IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS FRANKLY AND AT LENGTH.

4. IF BILL IS NOT TO BE CONSIDERED BY HOUSE IN NEAR FUTURE, WE SUGGEST THAT OTHER POSTS MAY FIND SIMILAR VISIT VERY USEFUL TO PROVIDE BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF STATUS, BACKGROUND AND PROVISIONS OF TRADE BILL. IF AMBASSADOR PEARCE DOES PLAN SERIES OF BRIEF VISITS TO EC CAPITALS FOR THIS PURPOSE, WE WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO ARRANGE CONFERENCE WITH PRESS AND OTHER MEDIA.

5. WE ALSO SUGGEST THAT USIA CONSIDER PUBLISHING INTERVIEW WITH, OR ARTICLE BY, AMBASSADOR PEARCE IN "ECONOMIC IMPACT," WHICH IS WIDELY DISTRIBUTED IN U.K. FINALLY, USIA MAY WISH CONSIDER APPROPRIATELY TIMED "ELECTRONIC DIALOGUE" WITH AMBASSADOR PEARCE AND CORRESPONDENTS IN CAPITALS OF MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS. APPROPRIATE TIME MIGHT BE NEXT MAJOR DECISION REGARDING TRADE BILL, WHETHER DECISION IS FURTHER POSTPONEMENT OR REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION BY HOUSE.

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